

Candidates and Public Officials Filing Dates:

Non Election Year

June 30

December 31

Election Year

March 31

June 30

September 30

October 25

December 31

All above dates have a five day grace period

Run Offs

Six days before election

Two day grace period

Special Elections

15 days before election

December 31

Five day grace period

LATE FEES

\$25.00 filing fee for each report filed late.

An additional \$50.00 on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed.

PENALTIES

First violation: not to exceed \$1,000.00 per violation.

Second occurrence of a violation of the same provision: not to exceed \$5,000.00 per violation.

Third occurrence of a violation of the same provision: not to exceed \$10,000.00 per violation.

Knowingly violating the law is a misdemeanor.

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For more information contact the Education and Information Division of the S.E.C. or visit our website www.ethics.ga.gov.

This guide is intended only as a summary to aid in understanding the Ethics in Government Act (Act). For the law's complete requirements, consult the Act itself, codified at Title 21 Chapter 5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Committees

(Other than a candidate's campaign committee)



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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The following is a list of different types of committees that register with the S.E.C.

Political Party	Individual
Recall Election	Political Action Committee
Independent Committee	Constitutional Amendment
Ballot	Statewide Referendum

FORMS

A **Form RO** is an annual registration filed with the State Ethics Commission that expires on December 31st of each calendar year.

A **Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR)** is a report filed with the appropriate filing officer disclosing **all** expenditures and contributions.

A Form RO and a CCDR must be filed once the reporting requirements are met.

A **Pin Application** for electronically filing CCDRs must be filed with the State Ethics Commission to obtain a personal identification number (P.I.N.) and password to access the online filing system.

All of the necessary forms are available at www.ethics.ga.gov

Contribution limits to candidates

State-wide elected office:

1. \$6100.00 for primary election
2. \$3600.00 for primary run-off election
3. \$6100.00 for general election
4. \$3600.00 for general election run-off

General Assembly or public office other than state-wide elected office:

1. \$2400.00 for primary election
2. \$1200.00 for primary run-off election
3. \$2400.00 for general election
4. \$1200.00 for general election run-off

Registration Requirements

Political Party, PACs, & Individuals

All political action committees, political parties, and individuals making contributions and expenditures to or on behalf of candidates which do not exceed \$25,000.00 in the aggregate in one calendar year are not required to register. For purposes of determining whether the \$25,000 threshold has been surpassed, contributions to political parties and political action committees shall also be counted toward the aggregate annual amount.

Independent Committees

Any independent committee which accepts contributions for, or makes expenditures on behalf of candidates, shall file a registration with the commission in the same manner as is required of campaign committees prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures.

Recall Committee

A recall committee must register with the commission prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures.

Ballot Committee

A municipal ballot committee must register with the commission prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures.

Constitutional Amendment/ Statewide Referendum Committee

Constitutional amendment and statewide referendum committees must register with the commission prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures.

Filing Officer

State Level: State Ethics Commission

County Level: Elections Superintendent or Probate Judge

Municipal Level: City Clerk or Mayor

Reporting Schedule

Political Party, PACs, & Individuals

Any person, who makes contributions to, accepts contributions for, or makes expenditures on behalf of candidates, shall report at the same time and the same place as required of the candidates they support.

There are three instances in which a contributor is not required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports:

- (1) if the contributor is an individual who makes aggregate contributions of \$25,000.00 or less directly to candidates or the candidates' campaign committee in one calendar year, or
- (2) persons other than individuals whose contributions and expenditures to all candidates for the calendar year does not exceed \$25,000 in the aggregate, or
- (3) if, regardless of the dollar amount involved, the contributor makes contributions to only one candidate during the calendar year.

Independent Committees

1. The first day of each of the two calendar months preceding election
2. Two weeks prior to the date of election
3. Final report prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held.

(Supplemental reports shall be filed on June 30 and December 31 of each year the committee continues to accept or make expenditures.)

Recall Committee

1. Initial report within 15 days after recall petition forms were issued to sponsors
2. Second report filed 45 days after the filing of the initial report
3. Third report filed within 20 days after the election superintendent declares legal sufficiency or insufficiency of a recall petition
4. Final report filed prior to December 31 of the year in which the recall election is held or not held; or if no election is held, prior to December 31 of the year in which the committee accepted contributions and made expenditures.

(A copy is to be filed with designated filing officer at a city or county level.)

Ballot Committee

1. 15 days before date of election
2. Prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held

Constitutional Amendment/ Statewide Referendum

1. 75 days before the date of the election
2. 45 days before the date of the election
3. 15 days before the date of the election
4. Prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held